

**Committee for a Better Environment
Council Chambers
City Hall, College Park
February 25, 2013
7:00 PM**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Suchitra Balachandran	X	_____
Gemma Evans	X	_____
Alan Hew	X	_____
Stephen Jascourt		X
Benjamin Mellman	X	
Janis Oppelt	X	_____
Kennis Termini		X
Ballard Troy	X	_____
Donna Weene	X	
Richard Williamson	X	_____
Macrina Xavier	X	_____

Guests Present: James Jalandoni, University of Maryland, Stephen Brimer,
Jonathan Brown, City Liaison, Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Sustainability Fair

Ms. Oppelt introduced James Jalandoni from the University of Maryland who discussed the Sustainability Fair to be held in late April from 12 noon to 9:00 p.m. Mr. Jalandoni asked CBE to provide food for the guests. The location has been determined for the event and can hold 130 people. The contact person is Lisa Lincoln and the Committee agreed to invite Ms. Lincoln and Mr. Jalandoni to the March CBE meeting to give additional details and a vote can be held at that time. Mr. Jalandoni invited CBE to Earth Day on April 22 and CBE can have a table on campus. The exact location will be determined at a later date.

2. Review of minutes from Jan. 28 (draft previously distributed to members)

Ms. Oppelt indicated that Ms. Balachandran and Ms. Xavier ~~and~~ reviewed the minutes from January, ~~and~~ edited them and forwarded them to the Committee with track changes. Ms. Oppelt suggested that for future meetings, the editing team could review the minutes and make one set of changes to send to the Committee prior to the next meeting. Ms. Oppelt requested additional revisions. -There being no further revisions, Ms. Oppelt made a motion to accept the January 28, 2013 minutes as edited. Ms. Weene seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

3. Compost workshop --> city-wide compost program! What might happen over next 15 months (scenarios, ideas, reality of logistics)...

Ms. Balachandran indicated that everything is set for workshop, and she spoke to the presenter and he accepted the honorarium for the same. Ms. Oppelt will send a request for the check for honorarium to Mr. Brown. -Ms. Oppelt reported that approximately 52 people are registered for the workshop. -For the first 35 people registered, she will send an email to them with a picture of the compost bin. -There will be a short survey for the recipients of the bins. Ms. Balachandran reported on the town of Cheverly and how their program operates. She suggested forming a subcommittee. Ms. Evans, Ms. Weene and Mr. Brimer agreed to be members of that subcommittee, and they will communicate via e-mail. Mr. Brimer inquired if the bins are for homes only or can they be used on the patio of an apartment and was told they are for not suitable for apartments. The committee agreed that it does not make a difference if they are given out to homeowners or renters. Mr. Troy suggested follow up with the persons who receive the bins to find out the effectiveness of them. Ms. Balachandran suggested a blog to keep in touch with the recipients. Ms. Xavier would like to add a few questions for the survey.

4. CBE budget for FY 2014: amount would be same as FY 2013this year, focus on —categories and related activity goals following model from FY 2013 (attached and previously sent to members)

Ms. Oppelt suggested purchasing additional compost bins – at least 20 more and once the initial amount have been distributed, attendees at the workshop would be advised that they can pick them up later at a future date and designation to be announced. Ms. Oppelt asked Mr. Brown for assistance with the FY 2013 budget. He indicated that it is \$11,000 and the committee has the freedom to move items around between categories. The Committee reviewed the categories and agreed to make the following revisions:

Special Services	\$1,500
Clerical Support	1,200
Outside Consulting Services	500
Literature (zero out classified And keep printing	
Special Events (CBE printing)	2,500
Green Awards (Reduced)	400
General Supplies (increased)	1,400
Refreshments (increased)	500
Trees, Shrubs and Flowers	2,400
ICLE	<u>600</u>
 TOTAL	 <u>\$11,000</u>

The Committee agreed that at the March, 2013 meeting, discussions should be held on what budget items to spend prior to July 1, 2013. Ms. Oppelt made a motion to accept the budget. Ms. Weene seconded and the motion was unanimous.

Mr. Troy asked if someone can send the revised budget to the committee. Ms. Oppelt indicated that the revised budget will be sent to the committee and he can compare it to the current one. Ms. Evans made a motion that we briefly discuss the budget every month after the minutes. Ms. Balachandran seconded and the motion was unanimous.

5. Upcoming activities:

a. Compost workshop parts 1 and 2 -- done, not much more to discuss?

Ms. Oppelt informed the Committee that Mr. Jascourt suggested using a planning calendar that can be shared that shows the upcoming internal dates and events. -Mr. Hew agreed that this is necessary in order to be able to find dates for presenters and speakers. He stressed the importance of having this information in one place so as to lock in proposed presenters and speakers for upcoming workshops.

b. Permaculture, April 27, 1-3 pm

The upcoming ~~P~~permaculture workshop is scheduled for April 27, from 1-3:00 p.m.

c. Earth Day Activities

d. Green Awards

e. Birding in College Park - yes/no/season?

There is nothing currently planned for this workshop.

f. Green roofs or other topic

Mr. Hew explained the general concept for the workshop, and Ms. Oppelt suggested doing a mini series instead of packing everything into one workshop. -The committee suggested moving forward and selecting a date. -May 4 is the day that he can do the workshop. -Ms. Balachandran suggested a later date because there is another workshop a week prior. Mr. Hew will consider a September date if he cannot arrange the May meeting. meet May

4. Ms. Oppelt suggested calling Ms. Allen to see if City Hall is available 9~~_~~am-1 p.m.

g. Canning preserves (summer or fall?)

Ms. Oppelt received a report from Ms. Termini that the wWorkshop will be held on Saturday, May 18 at the Old Parrish House and the limited number of people who can register would be there are currently-16 people registered. There will be expenses of

\$100 honorarium, \$100 for food and \$50 for refreshments. The workshop is scheduled from 10 am–~~Noons~~. Mr. Troy made a motion to approve the expenses of \$250 and Ms. Evans seconded the motion to approve the ~~\$250 expenditure for the~~ workshop expenditure. The motion was unanimous.

h. Recycling (recycled) - identify next steps, timing

Ms. Oppelt opened discussions on ways to advertise the recycling workshop and the committee discussed various options. Mr. Troy questioned if we should drop the workshop or restructure it. ~~He asked the question if we should drop it or restructure.~~ Ms. Oppelt suggested getting an outside speaker who is an expert on the topic. ~~or finding outside experts.~~ Mr. Mellman suggested dispatching CBE members to attend community meetings. Ms. Weene suggested having the schools make a poster to kick it off and ~~she~~ suggested involving Girls Scouts. ~~and~~ Ms. Oppelt suggested holding the workshop in the fall. Mr. Hew suggested attending Earth Day at University of Maryland and securing a table there. Mr. Mellman indicated that there are stickers that have pictures of what to put in bins on the front of the bins. Ms. Evans made a motion that the city purchase recycling containers with recycling information molded into the bin. Ms. Oppelt seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

6. Need to set up a shared planning calendar like Google calendar that all members can use to indicate various events and which also will (we can post them) list major university events or schedules we should keep in mind etc.

The committee agreed that this should be undertaken and will move forward with implementation of same.

7. Farmer's₂ market

Ms. Balachandran reported that the committee put out a request for qualifications for a market manager which was presented to Council last week. ~~The manager will support a producer-only market and contract for a year subject to review the following year.~~ CBE will send a letter for support to the Council indicating that we support a producer-only market. Ms. Balachandran will draft the letter, and she has the information on the manager. Ms. Oppelt made a motion for support for the letter, and Ms. Weene seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

8. If any updates from related City committees:

a. Business Recycling

Mr. Troy reported that there are no new developments at this time. Ms. Evans reports that she spoke to Ms. Alexander who is waiting to hear from Ms. Tallee.

b. Sustainable Maryland

Mr. Brown reported on this topic and that everything is moving forward.

c. Tree and Landscape Board

Mr. Troy updated the committee on the Tree and Landscape Board and Ms. Weene reported that Pepco had cut down some trees that should not have been cut down.

9. Superfast summary of recent events/actions:

a. CBE presentation at Calvert Hills citizen's association meeting

Mr. Troy attended the Calvert Hills Citizens' Association meeting and gave the basics on CBE and informed the group about upcoming cComposting workshop. He and asked John Riggs for email addresses of the group so they could be included on our CBE mailing list, and Mr. Riggs indicated that he will supply the same.

b. CBE letter to Council on supporting state legislation prohibiting fracking (Council voted 6-2 to support)

Ms. Balachandran wrote a letter preventing fracking and the Council voted 6-2 to prevent ban on fracking. Mr. Troy indicated that the city of Greenbelt is voting on the moratorium tonight.

c. Action on artificial turf and any other topics

Ms. Balachandran suggested sending a letter to Council, and the City was told to not take a position on it. -There was a vote of 19- to 3 mandating that all schools in Prince George's County will have artificial turf within the next four years, to be phased in. The Committee discussed other options instead of artificial turf. Mr. Mellman inquired if there is an analysis of artificial turf vs. green.

10. Other old business

There was no old business at this time.

11. New business

There was no new business at this time.

There being no further business at this time, Ms. Weene made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Oppelt seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Ms. Oppelt seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2013 in Council Chambers.

Minutes prepared by Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary